

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A medical system for integrating data management with the process of controllably dispensing products including medications, the system comprising:

one or more dispensers configured to controllably distribute a product or a sample medication in response to a control signal;

an admission subsystem configured to maintain patient information;

a prescription subsystem coupled to said one or more dispensers and configured to receive entry of prescription information, to relate patient information from said admission subsystem to the prescription information to initiate a determination of whether the product is appropriate for the patient, and to send a control signal to said one or more dispenser units to distribute the product; ~~and~~

a sample management subsystem coupled to said one or more dispensers and configured to track the distribution of a sample medication to a patient, to initiate a determination of whether the sample medication is appropriate for the patient, ~~and~~ to send a control signal to said one or more dispenser units to distribute a sample medication, and

a marketing subsystem in communication with said sample management subsystem, the marketing subsystem configured to gather data regarding the distribution of sample medications, to transmit said data, and to receive, in response to the transmission of said data, marketing information for an individual dispensing the sample medication.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said determination of whether the product is appropriate for the patient comprises a pharmacy adjudication.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said determination of whether the ~~product~~sample medication is appropriate for the patient comprises a drug utilization review (DUR).

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said prescription subsystem is further configured to manage and control a virtual inventory by tracking ownership and utilization of a plurality of individually owned and co-mingled inventories in said one or more dispensers.

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5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 4, wherein access to a product in inventory is further controlled according to ownership of the product as tracked in said virtual inventory.

6-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said admission subsystem generates a patient specific drug benefit profile used in prescribing the ~~medication~~product.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising, a patient care subsystem configured to relate said patient information to data collected from the dispensing of an office administered product and to send a control signal to said one or more dispenser units to distribute the office administered product.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising an over-the-counter subsystem configured to relate said patient information to data collected from the dispensing of an over the counter product, further configured to send a control signal to said one or more dispenser units to distribute the over-the-counter product.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the product and the sample medication ~~is~~are dispensed at the point of care.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a central server connected via a network to said prescription subsystem and to said sample management subsystem, and configured to receive and process said determination of whether the product or the sample is appropriate for the patient.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein said central server is coupled to an enterprise resource planning system having an accounting module configured to track finances and collection of money, an inventory module configured to manage physical and virtual product inventories, a purchasing module configured to automatically process purchase requests, and a fulfillment module configured to manage product order requests.

16-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A sample medication dispenser for integrating data management with the process of controllably dispensing a product at the point of care, comprising:

one or more product cabinets configured to controllably distribute a ~~product~~one of three or more sample medications in response to a control signal from a ~~prescription~~sample subsystem;

an admission subsystem configured to collect patient information;

~~a prescription subsystem configured to receive entry of prescription information and to relate the patient information to the prescription information to initiate a determination of whether the product is appropriate for the patient, further configured to transmit a control signal to the one or more product cabinets to permit access to the product; and~~

a sample management subsystem coupled to said one or more product cabinets and configured to

receive a request to distribute a sample medication selected from said three or more sample medications to a patient,

relate the collected patient information to the request for distribution of the selected sample medication,

initiate a determination of whether the sample medication is appropriate for the patient,

send a control signal to said one or more product cabinets to distribute ~~at the~~selected sample medication to the patient if appropriate,

track the distribution of the selected sample medications ~~to patients,~~ and

initiate ~~the~~a transmission of the selected sample medication distribution data to a third party user.

23. (Currently Amended) The sample medication dispenser of Claim 22, further comprising a marketing subsystem configured to track and report use of the ~~product or the~~ sample medication and to associate said patient information with said use of the ~~product or the~~ sample medication thereby determining appropriate marketing information to direct to an individual dispensing the ~~product or the~~ sample medication ~~and/or to~~ said patient.

24-30 (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A system for integrating data management with the process of dispensing a products at the point of care, comprising:

a patient information database configured to maintain and distribute patient information;

one or more dispensers configured to dispense a productsample medication in response to a control signal from a prescriptionsample management module;

~~a prescription module configured to receive a prescription for the product and to initiate an adjudication check for the product utilizing said patient information, further configured to transmit the control signal to said one or more dispensers to distribute the product; and~~

a sample management module coupled to said one or more dispensers and configured to receive patient information from said patient information database, to send a control signal to said one or more dispenser units to distribute a sample medication, to collect patient specific sample medication usage data, and to provide said sample medication usage data to a user, and

~~a marketing module in communication with said patient information database and said prescriptionsample management module, the marketing module configured to gather said productsample medication usage data, to transmit said productsample medication usage data, and to receive, in response to the transmission of said productsample medication usage data, marketing information for an individual dispensing the productsample medication and/or a patient.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, further comprising a central system comprising a central server in communication with said marketing module, which central system is configured to receive the transmission of said productsample medication usage data and to determine appropriate marketing information to direct to an individual dispensing the productsample medication and/or said patient.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein said prescriptionsample management module further manages and controls a virtual inventory by tracking ownership and utilization of a plurality of individually owned but co-mingled inventories in said one or more dispensers.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the product is distributed to a user in response to the control signal contingent upon the user having product in virtual inventory.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for integrating data management with the process of controllably dispensing products at the point of care, comprising:

a patient information database configured to maintain patient information;

one or more dispensers configured to controllably dispense a product or a sample medication in response to a control signal from a prescription module;

a prescription module configured to receive a prescription for the product and to initiate an adjudication check for the product utilizing said patient information, further to transmit the control signal to said one or more dispensers to distribute the product; ~~and~~

a sample management module configured to receive a user request for a sample medication, the sample management subsystem configured to relate said patient information to a requested sample medication, and configured to make the related information available to a third party user; and

an inventory management module configured to control and manage the physical inventory and the virtual inventory of the ~~products~~sample medication, said control and management of said virtual inventory comprising tracking ownership and dispensing of a plurality of individually owned and co-mingled ~~products~~sample medication inventories in said one or more dispensers.

36-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~37~~35, wherein access to a ~~products~~sample medication in inventory is further controlled according to ownership of the ~~products~~sample medication as tracked in said virtual inventory.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~36~~35, wherein said inventory management module is further configured to control and manage the physical inventory of a prescription product, wherein the inventory management module is configured to manage and control a physical inventory by sending a reorder message to reorder at the product when an inventory level is at a predefined level.

40-41 (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The system of Claim 39, further comprising a central server connected via a network to said inventory management module, and said central server is connected to an ERP subsystem that is configured to receive and process the reorder message.

43-68 (Cancelled)

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69. (Previously Presented) The medical system of Claim 1, wherein said one or more dispensers configured to controllably distribute a product in response to a control signal by dispensing, releasing or granting access to the product.

B1
70. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein said marketing subsystem is further configured to track and report use of ~~a sample medication~~ and an over the counter product and to associate said patient information with said use of the sample medication or the over the counter product thereby determining appropriate marketing information to direct to an individual dispensing the sample medication or the over the counter product ~~and/or said patient.~~

B2
71. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein said marketing subsystem further is in communication with said prescription subsystem, the marketing subsystem configured to gather data regarding the distribution of products, to transmit said data, and to receive, in response to the transmission of said data, marketing information for an individual dispensing the product.

72. (New) The sample medication dispenser of Claim 22, wherein the third party user is a pharmacy benefits manager.

73. (New) The sample medication dispenser of Claim 22, wherein the third party user is a pharmaceutical company representative or a medication supplier.

74. (New) The system of Claim 31, wherein said user is pharmacy benefits manager.

75. (New) The system of Claim 31, wherein said user is a pharmaceutical company representative.
